

Green Businesses in Sunnyvale

Environmental Values at Work



Labcyte has tapped into locally provided recycled water for their irrigation needs



Recycling carts are provided for a wide variety of materials



Employees are encouraged to use alternative modes of transportation

Labcyte

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During Labcyte's series C funding, one of the venture capital firms investing in the instrument manufacturing company asked it to consider developing a "double bottom line" approach to doing business (investing in positive social and environmental improvement). This initiative actually fit well with Labcyte's existing business, since they manufacture systems that transfer very small volumes of liquid without the usual consumable waste that pharmaceutical companies have with existing technologies.

Labcyte responded to the challenge by making significant environmental improvements in and around its building and getting certified as a Green Business. "We were recycling before, but not in a very organized fashion," says Keith Love, Vice President of Manufacturing. Now the company provides recycling containers by every desk and in the lunch room, a cardboard bin behind the building, and colorful recycling education signs in all the recycling areas. Labcyte has also implemented a purchasing policy requiring recycled content in all of its paper products. To reduce paper waste the printers are defaulted to double-sided printing and staff works with vendors to minimize packaging.

Some of the other initiatives the company has implemented are:

- Installation of energy efficient fluorescent bulbs and LED exit signs and light sensors installed in rooms with infrequent use
- On demand water heater in the kitchen, low flow toilets, and aerators on the sinks
- Subsidized mass transit passes to employees and offering flexibility to work remotely
- Drought tolerant plants in the landscaped areas
- Using electronic media as primary method to communicate with staff
- Transparent vinyl curtains between work spaces with different temperatures
- Green cleaning products for use by the janitorial service provider
- Use of recycled water for all outdoor landscaping

"Because of all the in-house recycling initiatives, our waste stream has definitely been reduced," says Love. "I recommend businesses don't delay when it comes to making environmental improvements. The resources are there, so it's hard to go wrong!"

For more information on the green efforts of Labcyte please contact Keith Love.



To learn how your business can become certified as a Green Business, contact the Santa Clara County Green Business Program at 408.282.3180 or visit the website at greenbiz.sccgov.org

